

10/764,088

MS164190.03/MSFTP209USB

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

(1) Please replace the paragraph on page 6, line 29-page 7, line 9 with the following amended paragraph:

Referring initially to Fig. 1, a notification system 10 illustrates personalization and refinement of notification policies in accordance with an aspect of the present invention. The notification system 10 includes a notification manager 20 for controlling the flow of notifications from a plurality of sources 24 and directing the notifications to one or more sinks 28. Notifications are directed from the sources 24 to the sinks 28 based upon policies that control the decision-making processes within the notification manager 20. The policies within the notification manager ~~[[32]]~~ 20 are influenced by a plurality of profile variables 32, (depicted as  $k_1$  through  $k_n$ ,  $n$  being an integer), that are continually updated to reflect the current state and preferences of a user relating to being notified of message events originating from the sources 24 and communicated *via* the sinks 28 to the user.

(2) Please replace the paragraph on page 12, lines 14-19 with the following amended paragraph:

The notification manager 20 accesses the information stored by the UCC 40, and determines which of the notifications it receives from the sources 24 to convey to which of the sinks 28 based on this information. Furthermore, the notification manager 20 is able to determine how the notification is to be conveyed, depending on which of the sinks 28 it has selected to send the information to. For example, it may determine that the notification should be summarized before being provided to a ~~given~~ of the sinks 28.

10/764,088

MS164190.03/MSFTP209USB

(3) Please replace the paragraph on page 14, lines 14-23 with the following amended paragraph:

The notification manager 20 accesses information stored in a user profile 36 by the UCC 40 in lieu of or to support a personalized decision-theoretic analysis. For example, the user profile 36 may indicate that at a given time, the user prefers to be notified via a pager, and only if the notification has a predetermined importance level. Such information can be utilized as a baseline from which to start a decision-theoretic analysis, or can be the only manner by which the notification manager 20 determines how and whether to notify the user. The user context module [[304]] 40 can then actively determine or infer key aspects of the context of the user, such as the user's current or future location and attentional state. Furthermore, the actual states of context can be accessed directly from the sources [[306]] 24 via the notification manager 20 whiteboard 307, or, can be inferred from a variety of such observations through inferential methods such as Bayesian reasoning as known within the art.

(4) Please replace the paragraph on page 14, line 24-page 15, line 10 with the following amended paragraph:

The context information sources 48, (depicted as 1 to  $N$ ,  $N$  being an integer) provide information to the UCC 40 regarding the user's attentional state and location, from which the module [[304]] 40 can make a determination as to the user's current context (that is, the user's current attentional state and location). Furthermore, the present invention is not limited to a particular number or type of context sources 48, nor the type of information inferred or accessed by the UCC 40. However, the context sources 48 may include multiple desktop information and events, such as mouse information, keyboard information, application information (*e.g.*, which application is currently receiving the focus of the user), ambient sound and utterance information, text information in the windows on the desktop, *etc.* An event, also referred to as a notification or alert, generally includes information about an observation about one or more states of the world. Such states can include the status of system components, the

10/764,088

MS164190.03/MSFTP209USB

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activity of a user, and/or a measurement about the environment. Furthermore, events can be generated by an active polling of a measuring device or source of events, by the receipt of information that is sent on a change, or per a constant or varying event heartbeat.